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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County Honors Excellence in Transportation

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County will be celebrating its Twelfth annual Transportation Excellence Awards, Wednesday, January 22, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., at the Agricultural Center Conference Room, 1428 Abbott Street in Salinas. The ten individuals, projects, and programs receiving awards have shown outstanding efforts to improve transportation in Monterey County and the Transportation Agency would like to express its appreciation for their dedication and hard work.

Highlights of the award recipients are:

Individuals

- **Richard Vasquez, CSUMB Student:** Mr. Vasquez is recognized for his work to create an identity package, marketing materials, and façade treatments for the CSUMB Bike Bunker, a TRIPwise project. Mr. Vasquez's work, part of his Senior Capstone, helped increase bike ridership at CSUMB, develop bike culture at CSUMB, and promote the much needed and highly used Bike Bunker.
- **Jim Warwick, Instructor and Coach, Salinas High School:** Mr. Warwick is a dedicated Salinas High instructor, advisor and assistant coach for Salinas High Cowboys Racing mountain bike team. Ways Jim boosts biking include volunteering as a guide for the Salinas Bike Party; acting as a riding role model by observing California bike laws and other Salinas Bike Party rules; being a supporter and positive role model at community events; sorting parts at the Monterey County Probation Department Youth Center for a bike repair class; and reaching out to get needed bikes for kids who couldn't otherwise be on a team.
- **Casey Andrews, CSUMB:** Mr. Andrews is being recognized for his work on TRIPwise, CSUMB's alternative transportation program. Casey's efforts to provide ongoing outreach and effective, creative advertisements have been important, and CSUMB has seen a substantial increase in transit ridership. Casey has made outreach for transportation on campus more fun and noticeable; the entire CSUMB community has benefited from his work.
- **Eric Petersen, Transportation Activist:** Mr. Petersen has been a transportation activist since he was 15 years old, and has been a transportation advocate in Monterey County since 1995. He has been with the City of Salinas' Traffic and Transportation Commission

for 15 years, serving as chair for five terms and on TAMC's Bicycle Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee for 12 years. Eric is a long-time advocate for sustainable traffic solutions – promoting more than a dozen bicycle events in Salinas, and working with various non-profit groups to promote youth cycling

Projects

- **JAZZ Bus Rapid Transit, Monterey Salinas Transit:** Monterey County's first Bus Rapid Transit Line, the JAZZ route serves the busy Fremont and Lighthouse corridors. MST improved local streets and sidewalks, upgraded 24 traffic signals, installed queue jumps at two intersections, and expanded from five shelters to 19 – increasing seating capacity by 71 percent. Construction was completed in time for the Monterey Jazz Festival's Next Generation Jazz Festival. The thousands of passengers who commute using this route on a regular basis have seen commute times cut by 18 percent, while also easing local traffic congestion.
- **Highway 1 Rocky Creek Viaduct, Caltrans:** On March 16, 2011 a 100-foot long section of State Route 1 in Monterey County located about 1/10 mile south of the historic Rocky Creek Bridge collapsed due to a series of severe winter storms. The Rocky Creek Viaduct Project was developed to ensure long-term stability, and restore the highway to its pre-collapse condition. Major challenges included the rough terrain and maintaining an aggressive schedule while minimizing impacts to the travelling public. Construction started in October of 2012 and the project was completed in November of 2013.
- **Bike Bunker, CSUMB:** The Bike Bunker is an indoor, secure membership-based bicycle parking facility on the CSUMB campus. The Bike Bunker has video surveillance, visual passage (for more safety), and membership-only swipe card access. The facility holds 32 bicycles and has various cost options for membership, and is currently FULL, answering a great demand for secure indoor bike parking.
- **Pacific/Del Monte Intersection Improvement Project, City of Monterey:** The intersection of Pacific / Del Monte experienced the highest number of vehicle-pedestrian crashes of any intersection in Monterey in the last ten years, three times more than any other location in the City. This project reversed that trend. The intersection improvements created better separation between vehicles turning left and pedestrians crossing Pacific Street, which was the primary cause of vehicle-pedestrian crashes.

Programs

- **ITN Monterey County:** Independent Transportation Network Monterey County (ITN Monterey County) is a not-for-profit volunteer based service providing door-to-door, arm-through-arm transportation on the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas. Riders over the age of 60 and adults with visual impairments are eligible to use ITN Monterey County's service. Rides can be taken any day of the week, 24 hours per day within the ITN service area. Since December 2011, ITN Monterey County has provided over 5,200 rides!
- **Ciclovía Salinas:** Ciclovía Salinas' mission is to encourage the residents of Salinas to utilize city streets – harvesting an overall sense of well-being and vitality through physical activity. With their first event, in October 2013, Ciclovía Salinas worked to establish healthier transportation and living habits, positively impact economic development in Salinas, and foster a sense of belonging for the city residents.

This ceremony will also honor Del Rey Oaks Mayor Jerry Edelen, outgoing TAMC Chair, and longtime TAMC Employees Hank Myers and Lynn Terry.

For more information please contact Grant Leonard at 831-775-4402 or grant@tamcmonterey.org

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